CHILDHOOD LOST: NUMBER OF CHILD MARRIAGES MAXIMUM IN K'TAKA PAGE 6

BENGALURU, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2024 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 27 | Min 19 | Humidity 85% Partly cloudy sky Sensex 79,541 | Nifty 24,199 | Gold 78,560 | Silver 93,000 | Dollar 84.37 | Euro 91.70 | GBP 109.09

CITY / PAGE 4

Green wish

JP Nagar residents are worried sick about safety of green spaces designated for parks in BDA's Revised Master Plan

HOLD YOUR BREATH

Residents of areas near Mittaganahalli dump yard suffering from lung, throat, eye ailments due to garbage being set ablaze last week

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Sulakshana Pandita, a resident of Supertech Micasa, an apartment complex on Kannur Road, has been having sleepless nights over the last couple of days.

Pandita's 16-year-old daughter has been complaining of nausea and getting sick frequently. Her three pets – a Labrador retriever, a Shih Tzu, and a Persian cat- have been vomiting since Tuesday. Her 72-year-old mother has contracted bronchial infection and Pandita herself is suffering from acute headaches and asthma.

She says all the ailments began two to three days ago after garbage in Mittaganahalli dump yard had been set on fire frequently over the past week.

"While my mother is on medication for bronchial infection, I

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

BM had reported on Nov 2 about the issues citizens are grappling with due to garbage burning

Other than broad daylight harassment on streets, women in city also face invasion of privacy in form of people clicking pictures or taking videos on the sly

THINGS JUST TOOK A TURN TO THE PERVERSE

Police promise zero-tolerance policy, but ground reality differs

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In a series of disturbing incidents, women in Bengaluru are increasingly reporting a new kind of harassment, with blatant invasions of privacy as people sneakily take videos or pictures on their phones. These incidents have raised serious concerns about their safety despite the city police having proclaimed a zero-tolerance stance. Many victims told BM that police often discourage them from filing complaints.

In one recent incident, a private firm employee and her friend were subjected to an episode of invasion of privacy while traveling by train from Karwar to Yeshwantpur on Monday. A fellow passenger alerted the duo that a man sitting opposite them was secretly taking their pictures.

The accused, identified as 44-year-old Manikanta, was caught red-handed photographing the women without their consent. Though passengers confronted him and warned him to stop, he moved to the next compartment and continued his behaviour. When confronted again, his phone was found to contain numerous photos and videos of women, many taken in an obscene manner. Disturbingly, the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

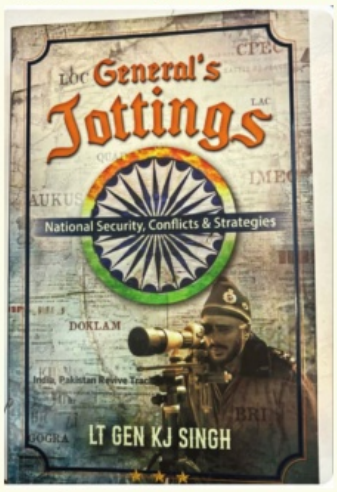
PIC FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY

"If any officer discourages victims from filing a complaint or fails to address such grievances, I encourage them to bring it to my attention, and strict action will be taken

— B Dayananda, Commissioner of Police

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Intriguing read



Join in for the launch of "General's Jottings," the first book written by former Army Commander, Lt Gen KJ Singh. The book is a curated compilation of the noted columnist and would serve as a handy primer and ready reference on national security and geopolitics. It covers contemporary strategic issues like the standoff on the Sino-Indian border, the proxy war in J&K, and other insurgencies. Very well illustrated with maps, graphs, and tables, it also has interesting compilations like the one on Khaki-Generals, mapping idiosyncrasies of Pakistani top brass. **Where: RSAOI–Moksha Auditorium, MG Road; When: November 8, 6 pm**

02 Learn ink art

Dive into the expressive world of ink art, learn essential techniques, and discover how to create striking imagery with simple, powerful strokes in an 'Ink Drawing Workshop' related to the Nandalal Bose "Haripura Panels" exhibition with Master Artist Rizwan Mohammed.
Where: National Gallery of Modern Art, Palace Road; When: November 9, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm

03 Mythological tale

Watch 'Atho Hidimba Kotha,' a creation that started as a response to a comment by a public figure that women must not engage themselves in "men's work" to avoid acquiring the quality of a Rakshasa (demon). Reaching "Atho Hidimba Kotha" from the story of Rakshasi Hidimba from the Mahabharata was a constant search of many search questions. It is a new narrative, a story of the defeated, dispossessed that the epics refuse to include. **Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar When: November 8, 7:30 pm**

Hike in entry fees at Lalbagh Botanical Garden receives flak

Horticulture Department raises entry fee to ₹50 for adults, ₹20 for children, citing increase in maintenance costs; regular visitors slam move, demand better upkeep

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The Horticulture Department has raised the entry fees for the Lalbagh Botanical Garden, now charging ₹50 for adults and ₹20 for children. This revised structure also includes an increase in parking fees, though there is no change in charges for motorbikes.

Updated fees

The updated entry fees set by the department are ₹50 for adults (previously ₹30) and ₹20 for children (up from ₹10). Car parking has been raised to ₹60 (previously ₹40), minibuses to ₹100 (from ₹70), and large buses to ₹200 (from ₹110). Bike parking fees remain at ₹30.

However, the officials defended the action. Dr M Jagadeesh, Joint Director of Horticulture (Parks and Gardens), said, "The price hike was essential as the entry fee was not revised in the last four years. Given the rise in security, maintenance, water, and electricity costs at Lalbagh, adjustments to entry and parking fees became necessary. Compared to entry fees at other attractions like Wonderla and Bannerghatta Zoo, Lalbagh's fees remain public-friendly. We will assure the public that the revenue from entry and parking fees will be reinvested into the garden's upkeep and development."

Public reaction

However, the visiting public is not happy with the price hike. "Many of us have long cherished Lalbagh as a family spot where everyone—from grandparents to children—could spend time together without a heavy price tag," said Ramesh, a regular visitor. "It's a go-to place for us on weekends and special occasions where we can unwind, walk, and spend a picnic as a group. When large families or extended families come, even a small increase feels significant. Not everyone can afford frequent visits at these new rates, especially if the entry fee keeps climbing," said Priya Muniswamy, a regular visitor.

Another visitor, Damodar Murthy, voiced concerns about the garden's maintenance. "If we're being asked to pay more, then the standards of upkeep should also rise. Many areas are neglected, and visitors aren't allowed access to the Bonsai garden anymore, which used to be a highlight for plant enthusiasts.

The roads inside Lalbagh Botanical Garden were asphalted after 40 years in 2019 (file photo)

It's disappointing to see such spaces restricted, and yet, there's little visible improvement elsewhere in the park."

Cleanliness and facility quality need attention if the fees keep rising. "People are willing to pay, but they expect the garden to be in top shape in return. These fee hikes have raised questions about accessibility and the balance between cost and quality at one of the city's most iconic green spaces," Murthy added.

Vijaya Karnataka Kannada Habba: Cultural treat for all ages

The much-anticipated Vijaya Karnataka Kannada Habba is just around the corner, ready to deliver an unforgettable weekend of cultural festivities on Saturday and Sunday at the Jnana Jyothi Auditorium in central Bengaluru. Organised by Vijaya Karnataka in collaboration with Bengaluru City University, the festival will be offering a lively array of programmes to celebrate Karnataka's rich heritage. It promises to be a vibrant celebration for Kannada and non-Kannada speakers alike, showcasing the art, literature, and cultural traditions of Karnataka.

Inauguration

The festival inauguration will take place on Saturday at 10:30 am, with dignitaries like Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and Union Minister V Somanna in attendance. Numerous celebrities will also be joining the ceremony, marking the event as a significant gathering of Kannada artists, scholars, and patrons.

Festival highlights

Attendees can look forward to a lineup of traditional and contemporary attractions, including Yakshagana performances, a captivating Hulivesha (Tiger Dance), a dedicated book fair, and a magical children's show. Attendees can also enjoy a food mela filled with local delicacies. Additionally, the British Council Library will be featuring an information kiosk at the venue, where visitors can scan a QR code for details on library resources.

The Kannada Habba's Literature Pavilion will welcome noted author Vasudhendra and actress Shwetha Srivatsav to open the Book Fair, which will feature an impressive selection of literature for readers of all ages. In addition, discussions with these prominent figures will provide literary enthusiasts with insights into the world of Kannada literature. Attendees interested in learning Kannada will have an opportunity to participate in language workshops led by State Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, with actors Priyanka Upendra and Pooja Gandhi contributing their insights.

The Kannada Habba will offer activities for everyone, with a magic show by Kudroli Ganesh, art and craft sessions in the Badal Prapancha area, dance and fashion shows by City University students, and performances by artists Vasuki Vaibhav and Chandan Shetty. Moreover, the event will have a special dance showcase by Prabhat Arts International and a Yakshagana performance of Mahisha Vadhe by Patla Sathish Shetty will be adding a traditional touch to the festival.

Free entry & parking

Visitors can enjoy free entry to the Kannada Habba along with free parking, with ample space for both cars and motorbikes.
At: Jnana Jyothi Auditorium, Central College Campus.
On: Saturday and Sunday, from 9 am to 9 pm.

— Prakash VL

Insta-reel blunder: Couple arrested for growing 2 ganja plants, out on bail

A social media reel turned into a legal debacle for a couple from Sikkim, who were recently arrested by Sadashivanagar police for allegedly growing a ganja plant on their balcony in MSR Nagar. The accused, Urmila Kumari and Sagar Gurung, have been residing above their fast-food hotel in the neighbourhood for several years, living peacefully until an Instagram post brought them unwanted attention.

It was found that the couple had added the ganja plant as part of their balcony decor, nestled among nearly 20 other flowering plants. Their inadvertent decor choice led to their arrest two days ago and now landed them a bail release.

It all started when Urmila, active on social media, shared a playful reel from her balcony. Little did she know that amidst the scenic backdrop, local youth would spot what looked like ganja plants peeking out from her flower pots. Suspicions grew, and soon enough, an anonymous tip reached the Sadashivanagar police station.

When officers arrived at the couple's residence to investigate, Urmila was tipped off by her sister, who works in the hotel downstairs. In a hurried attempt to erase the evidence, Urmila reportedly uprooted the ganja plant and tossed it into the dustbin. However, the police were thorough, and a search of the property led them straight to the discarded plant, weighing 54 grams.

—Sanjana CS

False bomb scare at 2 city schools

Two renowned schools in the city were thrown into a panic on Thursday after receiving an email claiming a bomb was planted on their premises. The email, sent anonymously, targeted Bishop Cotton Girls School on Mark's Road and Bishop Cotton Boys School in Shantala Nagar.

The Cubbon Park police, alongside the Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad, Anti-Sabotage Check team, and sniffer dogs, rushed to both schools and conducted extensive checks to ensure safety. After a thorough search, authorities declared the threat a hoax, finding no explosives at either location. The police have registered a case and are investigating the source of the threat email. They are working to identify the sender and determine any motives behind the false alarm. —BMB

Patient alleges tipsy shots of negligence

24-year-old patient alleges doctor, ward boy at city hospital administered injections under influence of alcohol; cops transfer case to medical board

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A routine hospital visit took a disturbing turn for a young patient at Pragathi Multi-Speciality Hospital in Kumaraswamy Layout when she alleged that a doctor and a ward boy administered multiple injections while under the influence of alcohol. The 24-year-old woman, battling high fever and sleeplessness, had arrived at the hospital on Sunday, hoping for relief, but instead encountered the doctor and a ward boy injecting her medications under the influence of alcohol.

In her complaint to the police, the victim alleged that Dr Pradeep and ward boy Mahendra, who were reportedly off-duty, intervened in her care despite visibly being under the influence. According to her account, the ordeal began after Dr Pradeep recommended drips for her condition. When Mahendra, the ward boy, attempted to set up the drips, he allegedly struggled to locate a vein, resulting in a painful series of four injections as he tried and failed repeatedly.

It is alleged that ward boy struggled to locate a vein while setting up drips, resulting in a painful series of four injections

The young woman's distress only grew as she realised her caregivers' impaired state. She then filed a formal complaint with the Kumaraswamy Layout police, seeking accountability behaviour by hospital staff.

Case transferred to medical board

A police official confirmed the unusual complaint, noting that the case's medical implications required it to be transferred to the medical board. "Since the issue involves potential negligence and misconduct in a medical setting, the medical board will handle it," the official explained. The young woman has also expressed her intent to submit her statement to the medical board, where a thorough inquiry will assess the actions of Dr Pradeep and Mahendra.

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A conversation with the renowned writer Vasudhendra & actress Shweta Srivatsav
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Locals urge action to protect green spaces

JP Nagar 8th Phase residents demand BBMP to address park encroachments under Revised Master Plan 2015

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents of JP Nagar 8th Phase are concerned about the safety of green spaces designated for parks in the Revised Master Plan (RMP) 2015, prepared by the Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA). They urge the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to protect these green spaces and prevent encroachment in the area.

The residents claimed that some open spaces reserved for parks have been encroached upon by private individuals, yet the BBMP has not taken action to protect these public areas. They were shocked to see workers cleaning a site that was meant to be a park.

The members of Arya Hamsa Apartment Owners Cooperative Society Limited, JP Nagar 8th Phase, Gottigere wrote a letter on October 29 to the Bommanahalli Zonal Commissioner and the Assistant Executive Engineer of Gottigere ward requesting them to investigate the matter and verify whether the ongoing construction or completed structures in the said area are in compliance with the zoning regulations and land use as per the RMP 2015.

"We have complained to the BBMP authorities. We expect them to protect the land meant for parks," said Sharath Charati, a resident.

Demanding the BBMP authorities to safeguard the spaces reserved for the public, Vishwas Avathi, a resident, said that he found some people clearing the site meant for a park. "The BBMP engineer visited the spot and assured us to look into the matter. We want the authorities to protect and safeguard green spaces reserved for a park," said Vishwas Avathi.

Expressing a similar opinion, Vilasini Krishna, a resident said the BBMP authorities have to take measures as per the RMP 2015. "We are expecting the BBMP to fix this issue without any delay," she said.

> **"BBMP engineer visited the spot and assured us to look into the matter. We want authorities to safeguard green spaces** – Vishwas A, resident

A resident, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said it has become a habit for some people to encroach on land meant for civic amenities or parks. "I believe that the BBMP ward engineer has to inspect the ward once a month to keep a vigil on encroachers and construction of illegal buildings. The BBMP engineers have to verify documents of those claiming ownership of the land," the resident said.

Meanwhile, BBMP Assistant Executive Engineer Sachin said that he has already directed the people working on the site to produce the documents. "A person, claiming to be the owner of the site said that he has availed a building plan to commence the construction. I directed him to produce a copy of the building plan. He said that he will produce the document soon. I am waiting for him to produce the required documents," he said.

Residents say private encroachments on park land remain unaddressed by BBMP, with workers seen clearing site meant for park

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Problems in your area?
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Trash troubles
Whitefield

Garbage has been accumulating for two weeks in Inner Circle Layout, Whitefield, with no signs of clearance.

Pollution crisis
KR Circle

Drain water overflow in KR Circle is causing an unbearable stench and severe pollution, making it extremely challenging for pedestrians.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Stop toxic fumes: Citizens' plea

have received calls from my daughter's school after she fell sick. My asthma and headaches are back and my animals are sick too. All of this started after Mittaganbahalli dump yard has been set on fire over the last one week," rued Pandita. Hers is not the only family in the area suffering. Abhik Ghosh, a resident of Shobha Dream Garden, another residential complex within a 1-km radius of the dump yard, says he has developed an eye allergy. "I have itchy and burning eyes. We are also experiencing occasional difficulty in breathing. Residents are unable to step out in our balconies for fresh air. The area has been covered in smog and unbearable stench over the past one week. Just last month, we had several dengue cases in our society," complained Ghosh.

Locals say the toxic fumes from the illegal burning, paired with leachate seeping into the groundwater, are causing health issues. They are worried that the exposure to smoke and pollutants would increase the risk of potentially deadly diseases. "It is not just us humans who suffer; the local fauna is equally impacted by these hazards. The stench is unbearable and the air quality is dangerous. It's like living inside a gutter with toxic fumes being pumped in every day," said a resident. Many have reported soot on their balconies. Residents are forced to keep their doors and windows shut all the time. In a formal complaint registered with the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), residents have highlighted unhealthy living conditions. "The regular illegal burning of garbage produces thick haze that lingers, significantly affecting the air quality in and around our homes. We have observed an increasing frequency of health issues... Many residents are experiencing irritation in their noses and throats, coughing, and difficulty breathing," said the complaint.

Traffic impacted

A long queue of garbage trucks has made the traffic situation worse for the locals. "At any point of time during the day, one can spot a line of trucks parked on both sides of the roads leading to the dump yard. Many school buses use these roads and children have no option but to breathe the toxic air. My 10-year-old son has been refusing to go to school due to unbearable stench on his way," added Ghosh.

No action: Locals

Locals say while a group of residents have approached various authorities to highlight these issues, their complaints have been ignored. "We approached the Commissioner of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike along with the pollution control board and local politicians. However, only false promises have been made so far," added Pandita.

Online campaign

Dejected residents from these housing societies in Kannuru, Mittaganahalli, Hosur Bande, and surrounding areas have now started a campaign against the dumping of the city's garbage at Mittaganahalli landfill. A group of more than 300 residents have joined hands to start the campaign.

Apart from health issues, encroachment, and criminal activities around the yard are some other problems. They say the area has become a hotspot for robberies and other unsafe activities. "We are appealing to the local authorities to guarantee immediate solutions to deal with illegal activities in and around the dumping site," said a resident of the area. "The worst affected are people from low-income groups living in a nearby locality, very close to the dump yard. These are our domestic helps, who have recounted the horrors of living next to Mittanagahalli. Even their voices are not heard," said Gayatri, a resident of Salarpuria Sattva apartment complex.

Residents say authorities should intervene and cease illegal garbage burning in the area, with penalties imposed on violators. They also demand regular air quality checks around the dumping yard to assess the levels of pollutants so they can be brought down.

BSWML response

Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd (BSWML) told BM that it was not burning garbage at Mittaganahalli.

In response to the residents' complaint, BSWML has written to Bagalur Police Station, requesting disciplinary action against miscreants setting fire at the landfill site. In the letter, BSWML clarified that miscreants are burning wire and thermocol at night and causing environmental damage. "Locals have filed a complaint with BSWML, however, we are not the one burning garbage at the landfill. After receiving complaints from citizens, BSWML deputed marshals to the area. When marshals questioned the miscreants, they replied that they were burning wire and thermocol in the landfill. Therefore, it is requested to depute police personnel to patrol the area at night and take disciplinary action against the offenders," said the letter.

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Juveniles' bail plea to be considered under JJ Act

High Court grants bail in case of minor being tried as adult

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The High Court has ruled that bail applications for juveniles tried as adults under Section 183 of the Juvenile Justice, Care and Protection of Children Act 2015 must be considered under Section 12 of the Act, not under the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Justice S Vishwajit Shetty, presiding over a single judge Bench, granted bail to a minor accused of sexually assaulting his minor sister. The court clarified that "Section 12 of the Act provides that notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure or any other law for the time being in force, a child who is produced before the Board shall be released on bail subject to proviso to Section 12 of the Act of 2015."

The accused faces charges under various sections of IPC and POCSO Act 2012. After the Special Court rejected his bail application under Section 439 of CrPC, he approached the High Court. The Amicus Curiae argued that Section 12 of the Act applies for bail consideration, despite the accused being tried as an adult.

The court observed that whilst there are three disentitlement categories in Section 12, none applied to the petitioner. The victim and her family expressed no objection to the bail. Additionally, they had not cooperated for DNA testing, and the adoptive parents of the child born to the victim refused to provide blood samples.

Noting that the accused has been in custody since July 24, 2023, with 22 witnesses yet to be examined and trial yet to commence, the court deemed immediate trial completion unlikely. The bench concluded that the Special Court should have considered the application under Section 12 of the Act rather than Section 439 of CrPC.

'Accused can't be included during pre-trial proceedings'

The High Court has ruled that Section 319 of the Criminal Procedure Code 1973, which allows for the inclusion of additional accused persons, cannot be implemented during pre-trial proceedings.

Justice M Nagaprasanna, presiding over a single judge bench, rejected a petition by RK Bhat, the complainant, who sought to include Shanthi Roache as a co-accused alongside her husband Norbert D'Souza in a case involving violations of the Karnataka Excise Act. The court stated, "Power under Section 319 of the CrPC cannot be exercised at a pre-trial stage, as to bring in another accused. There must be some evidence and for some evidence the trial must commence. It is an admitted fact that in the case at hand, the trial is yet to commence. Moreover, Section 319 of the CrPC casts higher degree of evidence against the person who is sought to be impleaded as an accused than what is available at the time of investigation."

The prosecution-supported application was dismissed. The petitioner had argued that the accused's wife resided with accused Nos.2 and 3, who were allegedly involved in selling substantial quantities of spurious liquor. They claimed she was aware of the manufacturing, storage and sale operations.

The court explained that Section 319 CrPC allows for summoning additional accused persons, but requires substantial evidence comparable to that needed for including someone in the original charge sheet.

Citing the Supreme Court's decision in Shankar v State of UP (2024), the court observed, "The husband is already an accused - accused No.3. It cannot be said that the husband and the wife both should be accused of the same crime, merely because the wife was staying with the husband."

The court further noted, "There is not even an allegation that the wife had indulged in the activities of manufacturing and storing of spurious liquor. Merely because she is the wife of accused No.3, against whom all the allegations are made, she cannot be brought into the web of crime." In conclusion, the court dismissed the petition, stating, "The application is misconceived and filed with an oblique motive to settle scores with accused No.3 that too, at a pre-trial stage."

ACADEMY OF MUSIC CHOWDIAH MEMORIAL HALL
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6th to 10th November 2024 at Chowdiah Memorial Hall
Tickets on bookmyshow
Friday, 8th November 2024 | 6:30 pm
Flute & Violin Jugalbandhi by
Pt. RONU MAJUMDAR (Flute)
Vid. R. KUMARESH (Violin)
accompanied by
Vid. Tumkur Ravishankar - Mridanga
Pt. Rajendra Nakod - Tabla
Saturday, 9th November 2024 | 6:30 pm
Veena & Sitar Jugalbandi by
Dr. SUMA SUDHINDRA (Veena)
USTAD SHAFIQUE KHAN (Sitar)
accompanied by
Vid. Anoor Ananthakrishna Sharma &
Laya Lavanya - 10 member Talavadya Group
Sunday, 10th November 2024
6:00 pm (Award Function)
Presentation of ACADEMY OF MUSIC CHOWDIAH AWARD 2024 to
Dr. Suma Sudhindra
Presentation of ACADEMY OF MUSIC PRATHIBA PURASKAR AWARD to
Sri. Dhananjay Hegde
INSTITUTION AWARD to The Bangalore Gayana Samaja
7:00 pm
Hindustani Vocal Concert by
Smt. KAUSHIKI CHAKRABORTY

BM Food & Night Life

Advertorial Promotional Feature

For an Indian curry

Anywhere in the world, when people think of Indian food, they usually think of curry! Of course, there are curries in the rest of the world too, especially in countries such as Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Japan. But the Indian curry! That is a staple that you will find in Indian restaurants across the world and in the homes of people from the Indian diaspora, and even non-Indian enthusiasts of our desi food.

Now, Taste Atlas has released a list of the world's best rated curries and it is proof that Indian curries are beloved by so many around the world. In recent years, there has been a growing interest in all things Indian – including, of course, Indian food – and desi khaana has made its mark on the international food scene.

So which are the curries from India that have hit the big time? The world's best-rated curries list has India's Shahi Paneer at fourth position, Malai Kofta in fifth place, and Butter Chicken at sixth position.

Thailand rules in terms of the number of top rated curries – the country has a whopping five curries in the list, while Japan has two. **-Femina**

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Karnataka reports highest number of child marriages

21% of country's child marriages took place in Karnataka in 2022, with 215 alarming cases

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Karnataka may appear as the most progressive state, but it is creating an alarming record in reporting the highest number of child marriages. According to the latest data from Lok Sabha, in 2018, Karnataka recorded the second-highest number of child marriages in India with 73 cases, following Assam, which reported 88 cases. Moving to 2019, Karnataka again held the second position with 111 cases, behind Assam's 115. However, in 2020, Karnataka surpassed all other states, including Assam, by reporting 184 child marriages, an increase of approximately 65.8% from the previous year. In 2021, Karnataka maintained its lead with 273 cases, significantly ahead of the second-highest, West Bengal, which had 105 cases. Although Karnataka saw a slight decrease in 2022, with 215 child marriages, it remained the leading state, while Assam recorded 163 cases. In 2022, Karnataka's 215 child marriages constituted approximately 21.4% of the total 1002 child marriages reported across India.

Union Minister of Women and Child Development, Annpurna Devi, stated that the government enacted the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 (PCMA) to combat child marriages and enforce penalties against those involved in such practices. Under Section 16 of the PCMA, state governments are authorised to appoint Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPOs) who are responsible for specific areas to monitor and prevent child marriages. These officers are tasked with advising and counselling local residents against participating in or facilitating child marriages, raising awareness about the detrimental effects of child marriages, and sensitising communities on this issue. CMPOs operate under the guidance of the state governments or union territories.

Since 2020, K'taka has been leading with highest number of cases

> **Chitradurga district recorded the highest number of child marriages, with 49 of 102 complaints proceeding to marriage, hence struggling to curb it**
>
> –Official

In addition to the efforts of the states, the central government actively promotes awareness through media campaigns, outreach programmes, and advisories to highlight the harmful effects of child marriages. The Ministry has urged all states and union territories to increase the number of CMPOs. The Ministry of Women and Child Development also runs the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme under the 'Mission Shakti' initiative, which emphasises gender equality and discourages child marriages. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) conducts awareness programmes and stakeholder consultations on this issue. Furthermore, the government of India has established CHILDLINE, a 24/7 emergency telephone service (short code 1098), to assist children in crisis, including interventions to prevent child marriages, in coordination with police, CMPOs, and District Child Protection Units.

Cash incentive for gram panchayats in Karnataka to eradicate child marriage

Reacting to this, the state government has introduced a cash incentive scheme. Gram panchayats that successfully reduce child marriage cases to zero will be awarded Rs 50,000 as a cash reward. To tackle it at the grassroots level, the Department of Women and Child Development, in collaboration with the Health, Education, Panchayat Raj, and Rural Development departments, will work jointly to enforce preventive measures. For this purpose, the state has deputed 59,000 officials as child marriage prohibition officers from various departments to aid in this mission.

Decline in child marriages

An official said, "This year alone, 1,093 complaints of child marriage were received, out of which 917 weddings were prevented. However, 112 marriages took place, and FIRs were filed in 160 cases. In the second quarter from July to September, 531 complaints were registered; of these, 363 weddings were stopped, while 150 child marriages were conducted, leading to 135 FIRs." To further reduce child marriage cases, the state has initiated several innovative programmes in partnership with seven key departments. The cash incentive scheme will be effective from this year, announced Laxmi Hebbalkar, Minister for the Department of Women and Child Development. In Bengaluru East and West, intervention prevented all reported marriages, making these districts models for others. "Over six months (April to September), Karnataka recorded 1,624 complaints of child marriage, preventing 1,280 weddings while 331 took place, with complaints lodged against 295 cases. In Bidar, all 29 reported cases were stopped on time, making it one of the districts with zero child marriages. However, Chitradurga recorded the highest number of child marriages, with 49 of 102 complaints proceeding to marriage. Shivamogga and Mysuru followed, with 46 and 36 marriages occurring, respectively. These districts continue to face challenges in curbing child marriage," the official added.

Violations in both public and private spaces

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

victims reported that he admitted to capturing these images and had even shared some on WhatsApp. "These were all college-going students, and though we deleted these videos and photos, they were already shared to several contacts," the victim told BM.

In a separate incident, a 21-year-old ward helper at Jayadeva Hospital was terminated and arrested after being caught filming a female colleague in a hospital washroom on October 31. The accused, Yellalinga, had been working on a contract basis for five months.

The incident came to light when a 35-year-old female helper spotted a phone positioned on a wall in the washroom, actively recording her. After raising an alarm, Yellalinga tried to retrieve the phone, but the victim reported the invasion of privacy to hospital management, leading to his arrest. Though Yellalinga claimed he left his phone behind by accident, the police dismissed his defence as implausible.

These incidents are not confined to private spaces.

Such incidents happening openly in public areas underscores a troubling lack of fear among perpetrators. For instance, in BTM Layout, a woman reported an incident of sexual harassment on social media platform where a young man on a bicycle approached her on the street, greeted her, and then inappropriately touched her before fleeing. She later shared her distress in a video, highlighting the blatant disregard for women's safety on Bengaluru's streets.

No need to complain

Despite the city police's zero-tolerance policy, women continue to experience such violations in both public and private spaces, sparking serious concerns about their safety. Many victims report that rather than offering support, some officers tend to discourage them from filing complaints.

B Dayananda, Commissioner of Police, Bengaluru, told BM that there was a zero-tolerance stance on harassment against women in the city. "All cases involving harassment of women, including privacy invasions, are being rigorously investigated and pursued to their logical conclusion. The city police take these matters with utmost seriousness. If any officer discourages victims from filing a complaint or fails to address such grievances, I encourage them to bring it to my attention, and strict action will be taken," he said.

Edu Dept cracks down on private schools falsifying RTE

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The Education Department has suspended an official after uncovering fraudulent practices by certain private schools, which were reportedly claiming government funds for non-existent students. Schools were allegedly presenting false enrollment numbers to the department, collecting reimbursement under the Right to Education (RTE) Act, and bypassing regulations without facing repercussions.

Sources said that in Bengaluru North Zone-4, 13 private schools run by a trust were found to be involved in these discrepancies. The schools reportedly claimed reimbursements for students who were not physically attending, thereby exploiting the RTE reimbursement system. Despite these irregularities, no actions were initially taken against the schools.

The investigation led to the suspension of HG Jagadih, a previous RTE nodal officer, who was accused of supporting the schools' fraudulent claims. The department received complaints about the Trust schools, and an internal report confirmed significant discrepancies, including fabricated records of student attendance and enrollment.

An official said that the scope of the RTE system has increased substantially over the years. When first implemented in 2012-13, the department reimbursed Rs. 29.96 crore for 49,292 students. By 2023-24, the reimbursement has surged to Rs. 496 crore for 3.36 lakh students. Over the past 12 years, the education department has spent a cumulative Rs. 3,768 crore on RTE fee reimbursements. However, cases of fraudulent records continue to surface, calling for stricter checks and verification. Officials said that additional irregularities were identified in the documentation provided by the schools. The RTE nodal officer allocated 25% of seats to these schools, disregarding RTE guidelines, resulting in financial losses for the government. The department deemed this a severe breach of duty, citing negligence and misconduct. Jagadish, now an assistant teacher at a government school in Agrahara Layout, has been suspended immediately.

13 private schools in B'luru north were involved in these discrepancies

HEALTH TIP: Start with 10 to 15 minutes of daily meditation or mindfulness exercises, focusing on deep, steady breathing

Meditation can lower cortisol levels, improve emotional regulation, and enhance focus

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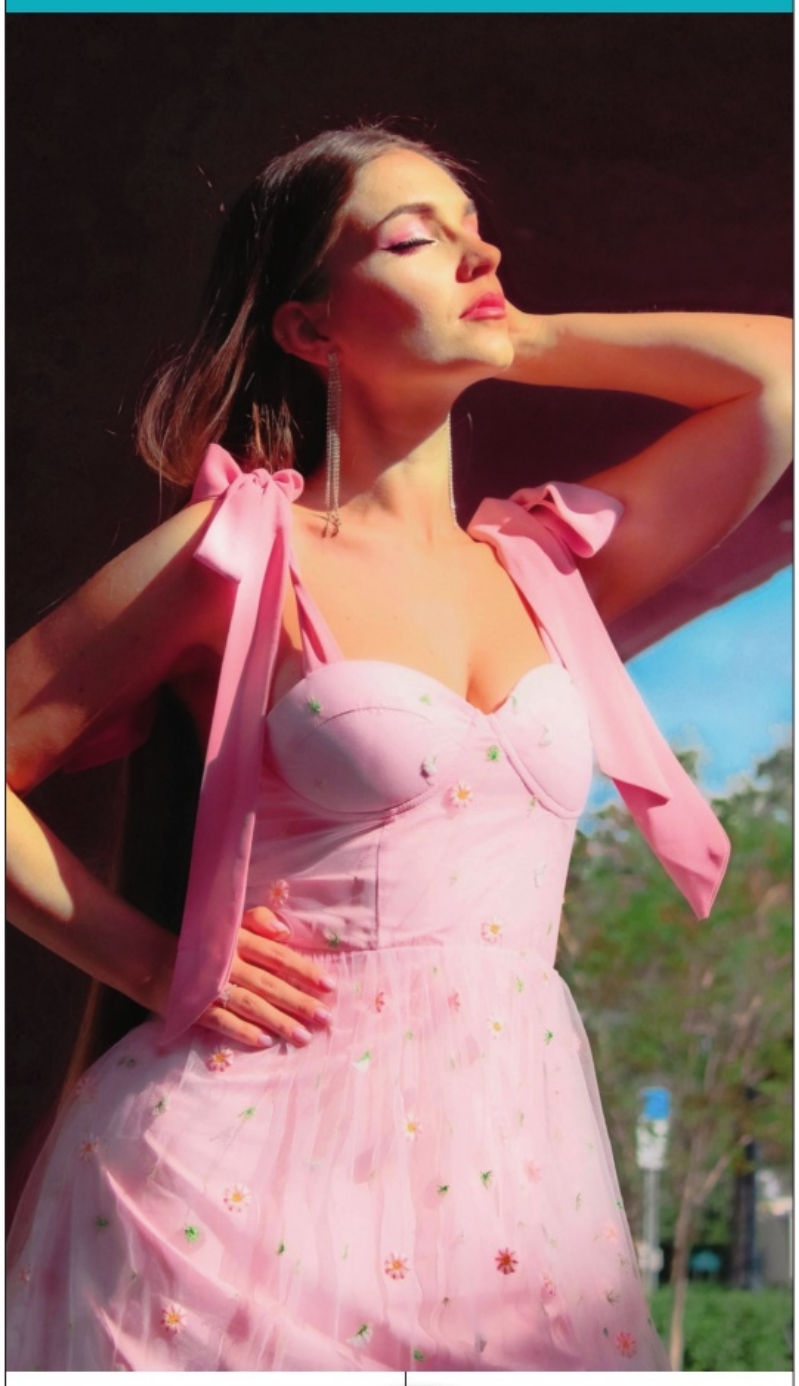
LET THERE BE LIGHT

Illuminating history of healing with light



For millennia, humans had one obvious and reliable source of light – the Sun – and we knew the Sun was essential for our survival.

This might be why ancient religions – such as those in Egypt, Greece, the Middle East, India, Asia, and Central and South America – involved Sun worship.

Early religions were also often tied up with healing. Sick people would turn to the shaman, priest or priestess for help.

While ancient peoples used the Sun to heal, this might not be how you think.

Since then, we've used light to heal in a number of ways. Some you might recognise today, others sound more like magic.

From warming ointments to sunbaking

There's not much evidence around today that ancient peoples believed sunlight itself could cure illness. Instead, there's more evidence they used the warmth of the Sun to heal.

The Ebers Papyrus is an ancient Egyptian medical scroll from around 1500 BCE. It contains a recipe for an ointment to "make the sinews [...] flexible". The ointment was made of wine, onion, soot, fruit and the tree extracts frankincense and myrrh. Once it was applied, the person was "put in sunlight".

Other recipes, to treat coughs for example, involved putting ingredients in a vessel and letting it stand in sunlight. This is presumably to warm it up and help it infuse more strongly. The same technique is in the medical writings attributed to Greek physician Hippocrates who lived around 450-380 BCE.

The physician Aretaeus, who was active around 150 CE in what is now modern Turkey, wrote that sunlight could cure chronic cases of what he called "lethargy" but we'd recognise today as depression:

Lethargics are to be laid in the light, and exposed to the rays of the Sun (for the disease is gloom); and in a rather warm place, for the cause is a congelation of the innate heat.

Classical Islamic scholar Ibn Sina (980-1037 CE) described the health effects of sunbathing (at a time when we didn't know about the link to skin cancer). In Book I of The Canon of Medicine he said the hot Sun helped everything from flatulence and asthma to hysteria. He also said the Sun "invigorates the brain" and is beneficial for "clearing the uterus".

It was sometimes hard to tell science from magic

All the ways of curing described so far depend more on the Sun's heat rather than its light. But what about curing with light itself?

English scientist Sir Isaac Newton (1642-1727) knew you could "split" sunlight into a rainbow spectrum of colours.

This and many other discoveries radically changed ideas about healing in the next 200 years.

But as new ideas flourished, it was sometimes hard to tell science from magic.

For example, German mystic and visionary Jakob Lorber (1800-1864) believed sunlight was the best cure for pretty much anything. His 1851 book The Healing Power of Sunlight was still in print in 1997.

> **Today, light therapy has found its way into the beauty industry: LED face masks promise to fight acne and reduce signs of ageing**

Public health reformer Florence Nightingale (1820-1910) also believed in the power of sunlight. In her famous book Notes on Nursing, she said of her patients:

second only to their need of fresh air is their need for light [...] not only light but direct sunlight.

Nightingale also believed sunlight was the natural enemy of bacteria and viruses. She seems at least partially right. Sunlight can kill some, but not all, bacteria and viruses.

Chromotherapy – a way of healing based on colours and light – emerged in this period. While some of its supporters claim using coloured light for healing dates back to ancient Egypt, it's hard to find evidence of this now.

Modern chromotherapy owes a lot to the fertile mind of physician Edwin Babbitt (1828-1905) from the United States. Babbitt's 1878 book The Principles of Light and Color was based on experiments with coloured light and his own visions and clairvoyant insights. It's still in print.

Babbitt invented a portable stained-glass window called the Chromolume, designed to restore the balance of the body's natural coloured energy. Sitting for set periods under the coloured lights from the window was said to restore your health.

Indian entrepreneur Dinshah Ghadiali (1873-1966) read about this, moved to the US and invented his own instrument, the Spectro-Chrome, in 1920.

The theory behind the Spectro-Chrome was that the human body was made up of four elements – oxygen (blue), hydrogen (red), nitrogen (green) and carbon (yellow). When these colours were out of balance, it caused sickness.

Some hour-long sessions with the Spectro-Chrome would restore balance and health. By using its green light, for example, you could reportedly aid your pituitary gland, while yellow light helped your digestion.

By 1946 Ghadiali had made around a million dollars from sales of this device in the US.

And today?

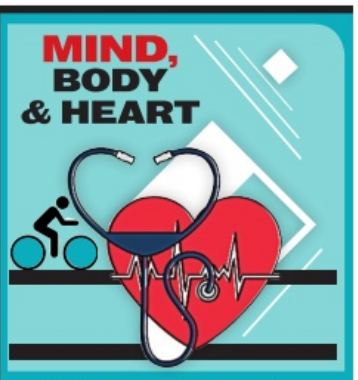
While some of these treatments sound bizarre, we now know certain coloured lights treat some illnesses and disorders.

Phototherapy with blue light is used to treat newborn babies with jaundice in hospital. People with seasonal affective disorder (sometimes known as winter depression) can be treated with regular exposure to white or blue light. And ultraviolet light is used to treat skin conditions, such as psoriasis.

Today, light therapy has even found its way into the beauty industry. LED face masks, with celebrity endorsements, promise to fight acne and reduce signs of ageing.

But like all forms of light, exposure to it has both risks and benefits. In the case of these LED face masks, they could disrupt your sleep.

(By Philippa Martyr, The University of Western Australia, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Psychedelic therapy

Treats eating disorder
Psilocybin therapy -- used to treat a range of mental health conditions, such as depression, anxiety, and addictions -- can aid in the treatment of individuals with anorexia nervosa, a type of eating disorder, according to research on Thursday.

What is Anorexia nervosa
Anorexia nervosa is a psychiatric condition where people restrict their food intake, but exercise more, and/or purge food through laxatives and vomiting. It has the highest mortality rate among psychiatric illnesses.

Psychological change
"Our findings suggest that psilocybin may be helpful in supporting meaningful psychological change in a subset of people with anorexia nervosa," said lead author Dr. Stephanie Knatz Peck at the University of California, San Diego in the US.

Study
The team employed a single 25mg dose of psilocybin combined with specialised psychological support before, during, and after administration. The results, published in the journal Psychedelics, showed "that 60% of participants reported a reduction" in the way they saw their physical appearance. About 70% showed improvements in quality of life and shifts in personal identity, while 40% reported reductions in eating disorder psychopathology.

Shape concerns
Although treatment effects were most pronounced in shape and weight concerns, the changes in psychological outlook didn't automatically translate to weight restoration, said the team. While the results show promise, they also highlight the complexity of treating anorexia nervosa. The team suggested a comprehensive treatment approach using psychedelic therapy may be better than using it as a standalone intervention.

—IANS

NCRB data collection in prisons can go on, SC clarifies in caste bias matter

The Supreme Court on Thursday said its direction to delete the "caste" column apart from any caste reference in undertrials or convicts' registers in jails will not impede the collection of data by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra made the clarification. In a landmark verdict delivered on October 3, the apex court banned caste-based discrimination like division of manual labour, segregation of barracks and bias against prisoners of de-notified tribes and habitual offenders by holding as "unconstitutional" the jail manual rules of 10 states for fostering such biases. "The 'caste' column and any references to caste in undertrial and/or convicts prisoners' registers inside the prisons shall be deleted," stated one of the directions in the verdict.

Senior advocate S Muralidhar, appearing for the petitioner on whose plea the verdict was delivered, said a prayer in the application sought non-hinderance to the exercise of the NCRB data collection by the direction of caste reference removal from the registers.

"That may be necessary," Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati weighed in.

When the bench noted that the NCRB ought to have moved the apex court for such a clarification, Bhati said she had instructions from the Ministry of Home Affairs for its issuance by the court.

"... it is clarified that direction (iv) will not impede the collection of data by the NCRB," the bench said.

In its October 3 verdict, the top court observed that the "right to live with dignity" extended "even to the incarcerated".

The Centre and the states were accordingly directed to amend their prison manuals and laws within three months and file compliance reports before the top court.

The top court was dealing with certain discriminatory provisions of jail manuals of Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Kerala, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh when it set aside the same. —PTI

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I, Shabarunnisa W/o Fakrulla Khan B F R/o #65 Ward-1 Siddlaghatta Chikkaballapur - 562105 have changed my name to Shabreen

I, Govindu P R/o 15, 3rd cross, Varanasi,TC Palya, KR Puram, B'luru 560036 have changed my minor daughter name from Bhavani Shree to Bhavani Shree Govindu Affidavit Dt.07/11/2024 Notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Sangeetha Dhanjaya Kadam R/o No 07 Kadam Mansion Huchangappa Galli Rt Street 1st Cross Chickpet Bangalore 560053 have changed my name to Sangeeta Dhananjay Kadam

I, SUHAIL NISAR AHMED, R/a.No.18, 2nd Cross, Bazar Street Neelasandra Bengaluru-47, I, have changed my name to SUHAIL AHMED Vide affidavit dated 06/11/2024 Sworn before Notary Meer Hassan Bangalore

I, Harish Ravishankar, S/o Ravishankar H. (Late), R/o Kaggadasapura, Bengaluru have changed my name from Harish R. to Harish Ravishankar for all future purposes.

I, MOHAMED AFSHAN, R/a.No.1/3-6, JJ Residency 4th Cross Jayanagar 3rd Blk, RBI Extn Byrasandra Bengaluru-11 I, have changed my name to MOHAMMED AFSHAN Vide affidavit dated 06/11/2024 Sworn before Notary Meer Hassan Bangalore

I, Nataraj Gowda S/o A L Nanjundaiah R/a #413/1, 5th Cross, 2nd Main, Srinivasa nagara, Sunkadakatte, Bangalore-560091. I have changed my name to A N Nataraj Gowda. I declare that hence forth in all documents and any other places my name should be as A N Nataraj Gowda only. Vide Affidavit dated on 22/06/2012. Sworn Before Notary R S Vijay Bangalore.

I Dheeraj A S/O, Ashok Kumar R/o 328, 10th A Main 3rd Block Jayanagar, Bangalore-560011 have changed my name to Dheeraj A Katariya.

I, Prakasam Sundaram S/o Sundaram C R/o No.52, Chunchagatta main road, Beereshwara Nagar, Konan - akunte, Bengaluru 560062 have changed my name to Prakash Sundaram Affidavit Dt.07/11 /2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Dhavan Mahesha S/o Mahesh Boodiguppe Nagaraju R/o 209 ,tridalam,vakil Garden City, thalaghattapura, Kanakapura Main Rd, B'luru, 560109 have changed my name to Dhavan Mahesh for all purposes.

I Jayashree Raghava W/o Raghava.T R/o #ff-1, 21/2, 1st Floor, Sumukha Enclave, 2nd Cross, B/H Subramanyapura Police Station, Sapthagiri Layout, Uttarahalli, Bengaluru 560061 have changed my name to Jeyashree Raghava for all purposes.

I, Radha Kumari Mittal W/o Amit Purushotham Tayal R/o 30/2, 7th cross, Pipeline, Cholurpalya, Magadi road, B'luru 560023 have changed my name to RADHA TAYAL Affidavit Dt.07/11/2024 Notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Ravi S Maniam alias Ravi Subramaniam, S/o Subramanian Raman, R/o A-1001, Mantri Alpyne, Kengeri Main Road, Uttarahalli, Bangalore South, Bengaluru, Karnataka, 560061, have changed my name to Ravi Subramaniam for all future purposes.

I, AMOGGHA R/at No.51, Siri Samgama Nilaya, Doddabele Colony Kengeri Bengaluru-560060 have changed my name to AMOGGHA C H vide affidavit dated:7/11/2024 Before Notary K.V Mai Bangalore.

I, Atul Sambhaji Jadhav R/o E-820, Brigade Lakefront Apartment, EPIP Zone, Hoodi, Bangalore-560048 have changed my minor son's name from Aaryan to Aaryan Atul Jadhav for all purposes.

I Hussain Mahammad Dilshad S/O, Abdus Sahid R/o 1148 2nd Cross 7th Main Raod 8th Block Koramangala Pin 560034 Karnataka Bangaloru have changed my name to Hussain Mohammed Dilshad.

I, Janardana Kodigehalli Chikkatimmegowda S/o Chikkatimmegowda R/o #01 Nr. Aswathkatte, Kempegowda Main Rd, Dasarahalli, B'luru, 560024 have changed my name to K C Janardhan.

I, SHAMINA TAJ D/o Sanaulla Khan and Holder Passport No.F3115687, /at No.2, Kumaraswamy Naidu Road, Frazer Town, Bengaluru-560005 have changed my name to SAMINA TAJ vide affidavit dated: 7/11/2024 Before Notary A. Gerard Bangalore.

I, Vimal Mol J S and Vimal Mol Deepan Velayutham R/o A1, West Block, Sharada Brindavan, AECS layout, Kundalahalli, Marathahalli, Bengaluru 560037 have changed my name to Manju Deepan Velayutham Affidavit Dt.07/11/2024 notary Harisha G, Bengaluru

I Vishal A S/O, Ashok Kumar R/o 328, 10th A Main, 3rd Block Jayanagar, Bangalore-560011 have changed my name to Vishal A Katariya.

I Rajani W/O, Vishwanatha Naik R/o #11, Tulaja Bhavani , 6th B Cross , Agslayout Road , Ittamadu , Subramanyapura Post - 560061 have changed my name to Rajani Naik.

I, Sunita Patil/Sunitha Santosh Tilagul W/o Santosh Tilagul R/o 428/420 Matha Pitha Krupa, 2nd Stage ,A Block Srigandhada Kavalu B'lore-560091 have changed my name to Sunitha Santosh.

I Selva Venkatesh S/O, Subbian Chettiar C R/o Flat No.1033, Casa Paradiso 1, Sobha City, Thanisandra Main Road, Bengaluru - 560077. have changed my name to Selva Venkatesh Subbian Chettiar.

I Lalitha Unnikrishnan , R/a. Flat No. 405/16, (Zing), Suncity Apartment, Sarjapur Ring Road Junction, Iblur, Bengaluru-560102 have changed my name to Lalitha Kumari for future purpose

I, Ramesh Matam R/O Flat No E-102, Concorde Spring Meadows, Chikkasandra, T.Dasarahalli, Blr-57 I changed my Minor daughter name from Praarthana Math to Prarthana Math for all future purposes

I Yuvaraju S/o Nagaiah S R/at No.41, Type-2,Block-7, Nimhans Qtrs, Bengaluru-560011, have changed my name to YUVARAJA N vide Affidcfavit Dated: 14-10-2024 sworn before R. Basavaraja, Notary, Bengaluru.

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GET NOTICED

Farmers allege corruption in KIADB land acquisition

Citizens Rights Foundation urges authorities to investigate compensation irregularities, but no action is taken

Y Maheswara Reddy
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Due to numerous complaints from farmers, govt ordered an inquiry

Disappointed by the rampant corruption and irregularities in the distribution of compensation to farmers who gave up their lands for industrial development, the Citizens Rights Foundation has appealed to authorities, including the Prime Minister and Enforcement Directorate, for a thorough investigation into Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) Land Acquisition Officer-2, Balappa Handigund.

There are numerous allegations and complaints from farmers who provided land for industrial layouts around Doddaballapur. Due to these complaints and irregularities in compensation, the government ordered a departmental inquiry against Balappa Handigund. He petitioned the Karnataka State Administrative Tribunal (KSAT) to prevent disciplinary proceedings, but the KSAT dismissed his petition on December 5, 2023, stating that he had no locus standi to challenge it.

Prior to this, Geetha G of Ambedkar Colony, Hesaraghatta, lodged a complaint with Halasuru Gate Police against Balappa Handigund for giving compensation worth Rs 84 lakh to the wrong person instead of the landowner. Halasuru Gate Police have registered a first information report (FIR) against Balappa Handigund on March 2, 2023, under Sections 419, 420, 409, 120B of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) 1860, and under Section 3(IV) of SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. "The case is pending in the court," said Ramu, the son of Geetha.

> **"We approached the Prime minister and Enforcement Directorate seeking suitable action against the officer who indulged in corruption**
>
> –KA Paul, Citizen Rights Foundation

The Citizen Rights Foundation, in a letter dated November 6, has appealed to the Prime Minister to direct the Enforcement Directorate to take suitable action on the complaints lodged by it against KIADB Land Acquisition Officer-2 Balappa Handigund. "We complained to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Minister for Large and Medium Industries MB Patil and the Chief Secretary against Balappa Handigund on September 12 but the Minister for Large and Medium Industries wrote a letter to the Chief Minister stating that Balappa Handigund is an efficient officer and has been working hard. He wants him to continue in the same position to complete the land acquisition process and hand over the land to Foxconn Company and Knowledge Health Innovation and Research. The minister appealed to the Chief Minister to allow Balappa Handigund to continue in the same office in the public interest," said KA Paul, Chairman of Citizen Rights Foundation.

Paul said, "We approached Karnataka Lokayukta to direct the government but in vain. Finally, we approached the Prime Minister and Enforcement Directorate seeking suitable action against the officer who indulged in corruption," he said.

Meanwhile, farmers who gave away their land to the KIADB want the state government to transfer Balappa Handigund who is known for corruption and irregularities. "I gave four acres of land to the KIADB and I am waiting for the compensation. I am afraid of approaching Balappa Handigund for compensation because he is a corrupt officer," said Venkate Gowda, a farmer.

Airport's 'Tiger Wings' brings nature indoors

Kempegowda Airport's Terminal 2 showcases vertical garden with over 15,000 plants, enhancing sustainability and air quality for travellers

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Vertical garden with over 15,000 plants from 153 species

The Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru (BLR Airport) has unveiled a unique installation titled 'Tiger Wings' at Terminal 2, a vertical garden designed in collaboration with the renowned French botanist Patrick Blanc. This 30-foot-high, 160-foot-wide garden, comprising two large walls, marks Blanc's largest project in India and demonstrates BLR Airport's vision of integrating natural elements with modern infrastructure.

The installation, named after India's national animal, the tiger, embodies the theme of nature meeting architecture. It's built to symbolise the wings of an aeroplane, with an outline traced by Asparagus plants and vibrant flowers in shades of red, orange, yellow, and white, representing the tiger's iconic stripes.

A nod to Bengaluru's green heritage

Bengaluru has long been known as the "Garden City" of India, and 'Tiger Wings' reflects this legacy by incorporating over 15,000 plants from 153 species, many native to Karnataka and Western Ghats. Patrick Blanc, an expert in creating self-sustaining vertical gardens, specifically selected these plants to represent the local biodiversity. His team travelled through Karnataka's forests to identify plant species that could thrive in the region's climate and conditions.

"We wanted to bring a fresh perspective to sustainability and artistry that resonates with Bengaluru's spirit. The project blends greenery with technology, art, and sustainability, principles central to the design of Terminal 2," said Hari Marar, Managing Director & CEO of Bangalore International Airport Ltd (BIAL).

Eco-friendly engineering and a sustainable design

One standout feature of 'Tiger Wings' is its eco-friendly, soilless planting system. Instead of traditional soil, plants grow on specialised felt imported from Germany, which holds water and nutrients for the plants. This design simulates natural rock surfaces where plants often grow in minimal soil with limited water, a setup that aligns with Blanc's commitment to creating low-maintenance, resilient ecosystems.

The vertical garden also employs a sophisticated irrigation system, which conserves water by supplying only the amount needed for plants to thrive.

"We created an environment where plants grow just as they would in nature's crevices. This project isn't just about adding greenery to the airport, it's about enhancing air quality and creating a refreshing, cool space within Terminal 2," Blanc explained.

IoT-enabled irrigation systems

T2 employs IoT-enabled irrigation systems with sensors monitoring soil moisture levels and plant health. This system allows for precise watering, reducing waste and ensuring optimal growth conditions without manual intervention.

Temporary relief for farmers: Land acquisition put on hold

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Devanahalli farmers' protest

Devanahalli farmers have received temporary relief after they staged a protest outside the residence of Devanahalli constituency MLA, K H Muniyappa who is also the Minister of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, and Bengaluru rural district in charge. The farmers noted that Muniyappa had previously assured them that the government would not proceed with the forcible land acquisition, however, on Wednesday, notifications were sent to farmers from two villages regarding it.

Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB) has now put out a notification halting the land acquisition process till the direction from the government in this regard is finalised. The notification came after instructions from the Minister, who paid heed to the protesting farmers. The notifications sent to the farmers were burnt as a sign of dissent at the protest on Thursday.

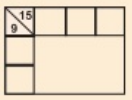
Sharath, All India Central Council of Trade Unions (AICCTU) District Vice president, said, " The KIADB has several acquisitions that have already been made but are yet to be converted into industries. It must shift its focus towards bringing these projects to completion," Sharath said. Under a makeshift shelter in Channarayapatna, Devanahalli taluk near Bengaluru, farmers from 13 villages have been protesting indefinitely. These farmers have maintained an ongoing dharna since April 4, 2022, persisting through all weather conditions for over 950 days. Their aim is to protect their agricultural lands from being acquired for a development project.

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

John is 9 years younger than 3x as old Mary. 4 years ago he was 10 years older than 2x as old Mary. How old is John?

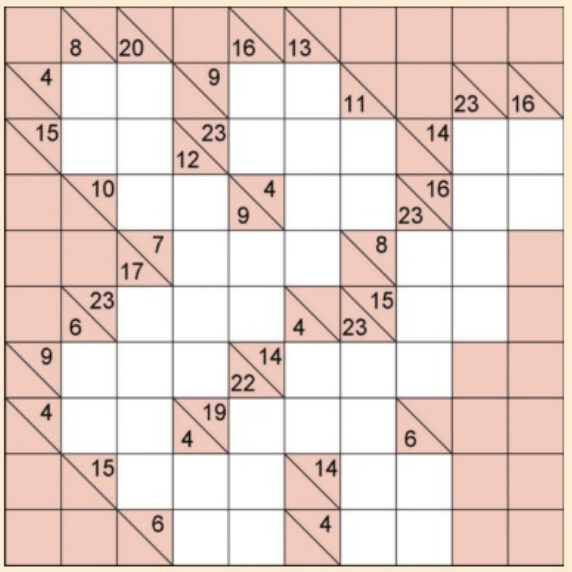
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

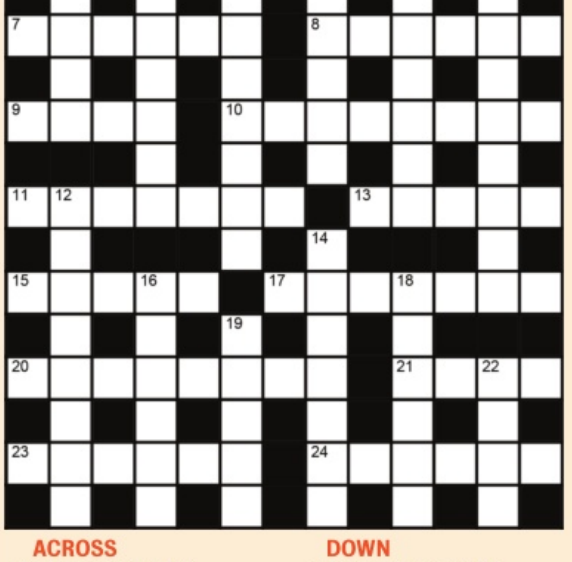


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Faces or defies (6)
8 Relating to the backbone (6)
9 Crude person (4)
10 Ordinary writing (8)
11 Adopt, embrace (7)
13 Pierces (5)
15 Plant parts (5)
17 Basis from which reasoning proceeds (7)
20 ____ Memorial Hall: Venue for plays and musical performances in Kodandarampura (8)
21 Carries out (4)
23 Peter Pan author (6)
24 Salvo or barrage (6)

DOWN

1 Therefore; hence (4)
2 Carry too far (6)
3 Futile (7)
4 Employing (5)
5 Up-to-date (4,2)
6 Marijuana (8)
12 Make a prophecy (8)
14 Chronicle, anal or record (7)
16 High structures; minars (6)
18 Military decorations (6)
19 Sacked (5)
22 On the level (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: H EQUALS U

UZL BMA VMFF OHZ UZL SOOUZA WDO LDH, MW LDH UCB UN RSANMTS

Linemaro

Oh, you came in. I wondered why the room suddenly got bright

Mindchow

To get lost is to learn the way

Joke of the day

Michelangelo's mother: Mike, can't you paint on walls like other children? Do you have any idea how hard it is to get that stuff off the ceiling? Mona Lisa's mother: After all that money your father and I spent on braces,Mona, that's the biggest smile you can give us?

Loop

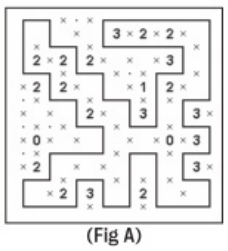
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

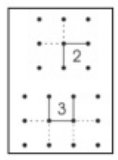
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

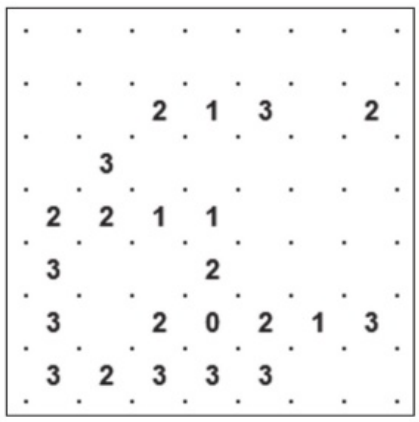
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



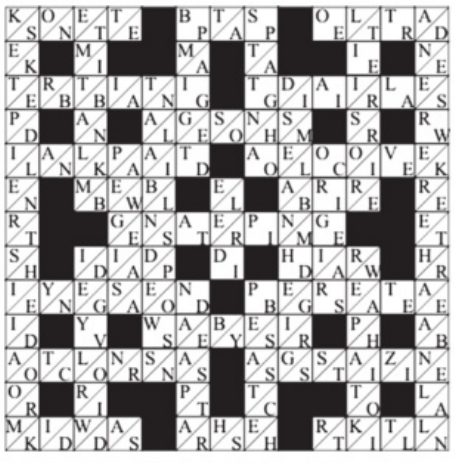
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



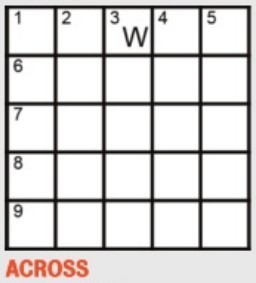
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Claws; 6 Or war;
7 Toe me; 8 Cento;
9 Gator

DOWN

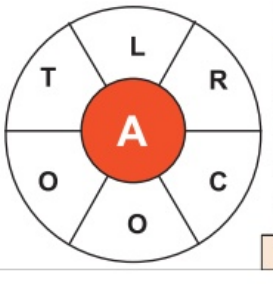
1 Ace A/C; 2 Or mar;
3 Grown; 4 To lot;
5 We set

Mensapuzzle

What number comes next?

2 4 8 16 20 28 44 52 68 100 116 148 ?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

08 Average; **09** Good; **11** Outstanding

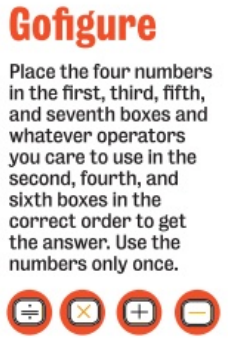
SudokuChallenge

5				2				3
			1			4	7	
8			4			1		2
	2			6	3			
		9				5		
			2	7			8	
3		7			1			8
	1	5			7			
6				5				7

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy = 19
1 2 8 8

Medium = 10
3 7 8 8

Hard = 16
2 6 8 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Door handle is different. 2. Arm is not showing. 3. Car is longer. 4. Cap is different. 5. Bush is added. 6. Edges of windshield are rounded.

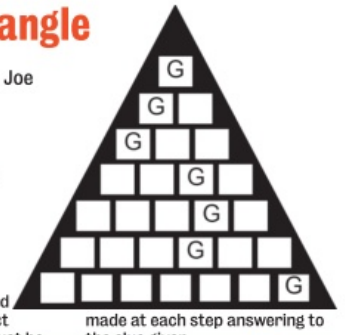
Riddler

Find a rhyme for each word below so you end up with a familiar three-word phrase in the form "__, __, and __". Example: Clue = "Cook, Wine, Drinker". Answer = "Hook, Line, and Sinker"

1. Sock, Rock, Carol 2. Claim, Debt, Scratch
3. Steady, Filling, Label 4. Warning, Soon, Flight

Alpha triangle

1 Gravity, symbol
2 American soldier Joe
3 Card-table call
4 Nearly
5 Whinny
6 Like most gates
7 Paying attention

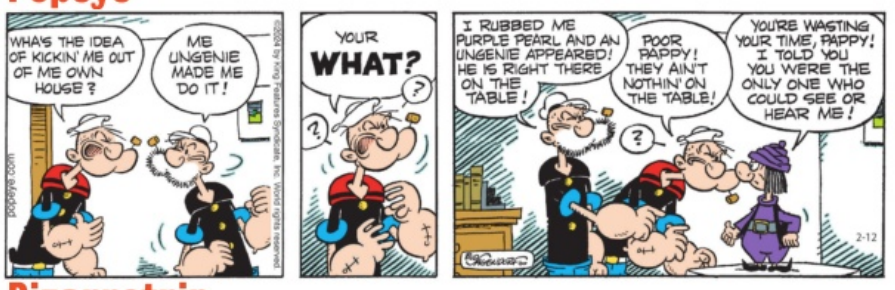


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

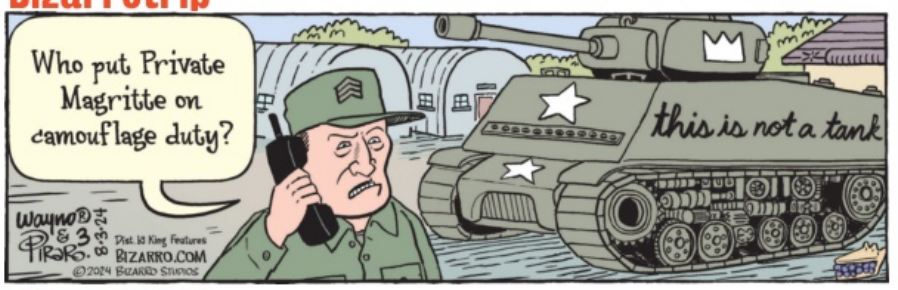
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye


WHA'S THE IDEA OF KICKIN' ME OUT OF ME OWN HOUSE?
ME UNGENIE MADE ME DO IT!
YOUR WHAT?
I RUBBED ME PURPLE PEARL AND AN UNGENIE APPEARED! HE IS RIGHT THERE ON THE TABLE!
POOR PAPPY! THEY AIN'T NOTHIN' ON THE TABLE!
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME, PAPPY! I TOLD YOU YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD SEE OR HEAR ME!
2-12

Bizarrotrip


Who put Private Magritte on camouflage duty?
this is not a tank
Wayno & Piraro 8-3-24
Dist. by King Features
BIZARRO.COM
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Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M FINALLY TURNING TWELVE!! I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN ELEVEN FOREVER!
AND IT'S MY LAST YEAR BEFORE I BECOME A TEENAGER! EVERYTHING IS GONNA CHANGE!
IT'S TRUE. WHEN CELESTE TURNED THIRTEEN, SHE DEFINITELY BECAME MORE EVIL.
I WOULD BE OFFENDED, BUT YOU'RE NOT WRONG.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2024 ABIGAIL MCNEEL
@DCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

SO, JUST OUT OF CURIOSITY... WHAT IS IT THAT YOU'RE GRILLING?
SMOKED SALMON!
I GUESS I SHOULD HAVE SEEN THAT ONE COMING!
WELL, IT IS GETTING PRETTY HARD TO SEE!
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, the moon brings you blessings. You'll likely feel an inner strength that helps with difficult work decisions. Social gatherings may also expand your network, which could benefit your career in the near future. Property disputes with siblings are likely to be resolved now.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, family matters may keep you busy, and you may be focused on your children's academics. You might spend money on art or decor to refresh your home. You could also plan short trips in connection with your kids' education. It's advised to avoid any type of addiction, as it could cause disruptions in your domestic life.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, the moon blesses you with courage to make effective plans and carry them out efficiently. However, you are advised to have control over overexcitement to avoid mistakes. Be cautious with important documents before signing. Rivals and opponents are under control now.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, old health concerns may resurface, causing some anxiety. You may feel restless and lose focus on your goals, potentially wasting time on unimportant tasks. It's advised to limit spending on unnecessary items to maintain financial stability.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, your day may start with a lack of focus, but blessings from elders will help you regain control. You'll find the resources you need to complete projects, and sources of income may increase. Losses may also turn into gains, improving your financial outlook.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may secure a significant order from an overseas client, boosting your business liquidity. Meeting an influential person could also help expand your business. A strengthened bond with your boss might lead to a promotion, enhancing your professional reputation.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today is a good day. Blessings from elders may grant you patience and tranquillity. You might plan a visit to a spiritual place for peace of mind and even donate towards its development. Overseas travel is also possible.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may feel low, with minor health issues possibly affecting your productivity. An inexplicable fear might make you feel sensitive and emotional. It is advised to avoid risky activities and drive carefully. A spiritual visit could help alleviate some of your worries.

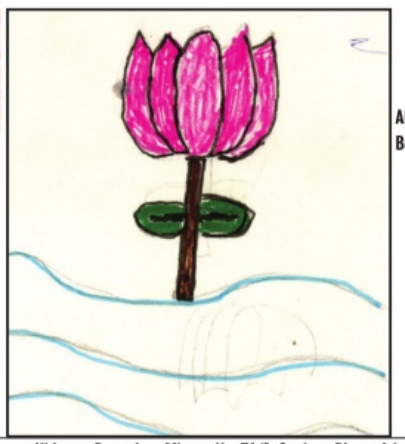
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, blessings from the moon may bring happiness. You may find joy in helping those in need and reflecting on personal growth. Your relationship with your spouse may improve, boosting confidence and harmony. Business partnership disputes are also likely to be resolved.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may feel healthier, with old health issues finally resolving. Legal matters may turn in your favour, and you'll likely have control over opponents or rivals. Financially, you might recover previously stuck money, which improves liquidity. New responsibilities at work could bring future benefits.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today brings a mix of events. Children's issues may require your attention. Some couples might welcome a new baby; others trying to conceive may hear good news. Using your wisdom, you may resolve disputes in business and social life. Students could consider studying abroad, and professionals may plan for higher education.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you might feel disappointed at work, struggling to enjoy the day's moments. Losses in property matters are possible, so it's best to delay investments to avoid further setbacks. Additionally, you are advised to take extra care of your parents' health.

KIDZONE



Akhilesh S, Bengaluru

S Avaneesh, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
J = 3M − 9
J − 4 = 2(M − 4) + 10
M = 15
J = 36

BULL'S EYE
actor, carol, cart, coal, coat, coral, LOCATOR, octal, oral, taco, talc

FAST FIVE
1. Lock, Stock, and Barrel,
2. Game, Set, and Match,
3. Ready, Willing, and Able &
4. Morning, Noon, and Night

RIDDLER

C	A	W	L	S
A	R	R	O	W
A	R	R	O	T
C	O	N	T	E
E	M	O	T	E

STRIKE OUT

K	I	D	S		A	S	H		R	I	L	L		
R		I		T		C		T		L				
A	C	O	R	N	S		A	S	I	S	I	Z	E	
D		V		W	E	B	E	R		P		B		
E	Y	E	S	O	N		B	E	R	R	A	T	E	
H		D	I	D		I		D	A	W		H		
N		M	E	L		E		A	I	R		R		
T		G	S	T	R	I	N	G		I		T		
E	S	P	O	U	S	E		S	T	A	B	S		
B	O	O	R		L	O	N	G	H	A	N	D		
G		E		I		T		N						
B	R	A	V	E	S		S	P	I	N	A	L		
E	O		U		W		C							

QUICK

B	A	R	R	I	E		V	O	L	L	E	Y		
S		E		R		I		A		V				
C	H	O	W	D	I	A	H		D	O	E	S		
T		O		F		C		E						
R	O	O	T	S		P	R	E	M	I	S	E		
E	S	P	O	U	S	E		S	T	A	B	S		
B	O	O	R		L	O	N	G	H	A	N	D		
G		E		I		T		N						
B	R	A	V	E	S		S	P	I	N	A	L		
E	O		U		W		C							

MENSA PUZZLE
The next number is 212. The differences between successive numbers are the key. They are: 2 4 8; 4 8 16; 8 16 32; 16 32 64. The last number given is 148. 64 + 148 + 212.

QUOTE UNCODE
Any kid will run any errand for you, if you ask at bedtime

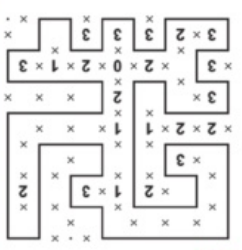
SUDOKU

5	4	1	7	2	6	8	9	3
9	6	2	1	3	8	4	7	5
8	7	3	4	9	5	1	6	2
1	2	8	5	6	3	7	4	9
4	5	6	9	7	2	3	8	1
7	3	9	8	1	4	5	2	6
3	9	7	6	4	1	2	5	8
2	1	5	9	8	7	6	3	4
6	8	4	3	5	2	9	1	7

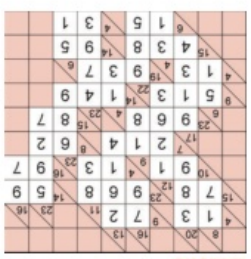
ALPHA TRIANGLE
G, GI, Gin, Nigh, Neigh, Hinged, Heeding.

GO FIGURE
Easy
8 + 8 + 1 + 2 = 19
Medium
8 − 8 + 7 + 3 = 10
Hard
2 + 8 − 6 x 4 = 16

LOOP



KAKURO



Volume No 17, Issue No 224 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru - 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon - responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

Minor injury
Actor Suniel Shetty recently got injured while shooting for the web series 'Hunter' in Mumbai. The actor took to Insta to inform fans "I am absolutely fine"

Spectacular J'Lo

Amid their ongoing divorce proceedings, Ben Affleck praised his ex-wife Jennifer Lopez for her performance in their upcoming film 'Unstoppable'. Lopez has reacted to it and credited the entire cast for giving their best in the movie, reported E! News.

The actor recently praised his ex-wife's performance in her upcoming movie "Unstoppable," calling her performance "spectacular."

To which, Lopez responded, "I would describe all of the cast and everybody behind the scenes as spectacular and wonderful."

Affleck, who co-produced the movie, discussed the film's success and his respect for Lopez's work during a recent interview. As per E! News, the actor and producer spoke about the significance of passion in filmmaking, noting how the dedication of the cast and crew made 'Unstoppable' stand out. "Unstoppable is a very different movie than this, but in a way, it's similarly rooted in the passion of really talented artists," Affleck explained.

He highlighted the commitment of the film's cast, which includes Lopez, Don Cheadle, Jharrel Jerome, and Bobby Cannavale, all of whom, he said, were deeply invested in the film's story.

Affleck, who is also involved in the promotion of his film, 'Small Things Like These', added that he and his producing partner Matt Damon share a strong belief in the power of storytelling and the importance of an actor's connection to the material. When asked about Lopez's role in 'Unstoppable', Affleck did not hold back in his praise.

—ANI

New leading pair

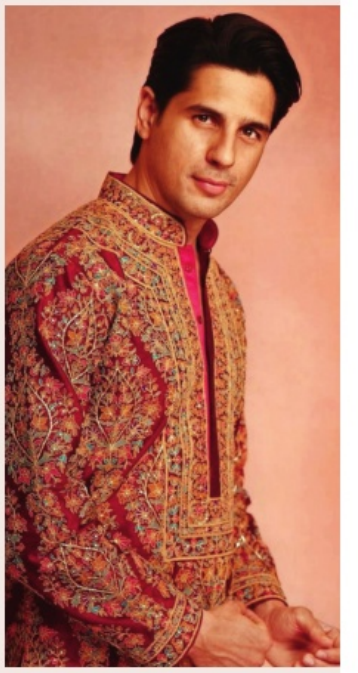
Sara Ali Khan, who recently appeared in the Netflix film 'Murder Mubarak', is reportedly set to star in a new film alongside actor Sidharth Malhotra. The upcoming project will be directed by Deepak Mishra, a filmmaker known for his acclaimed work on the hit web series 'Panchayat'.

The untitled film is reported to be set against a rural folk story backdrop, providing a fresh narrative for both actors. Specific plot details are still under wraps, but the film is anticipated to explore themes rooted in traditional folklore, offering a unique cinematic experience.

According to sources close to the development, India Today reports that the untitled film featuring Sara and Sidharth is set to begin production in 2025. This project presents an exciting opportunity for both actors, as they have not collaborated before. The film will explore a rural folk story backdrop.

Meanwhile, Sara Ali Khan is currently involved in multiple projects, including the upcoming film 'Metro In Dino', directed by Anurag Basu. On the other hand, Sidharth Malhotra, who was last seen in the action-thriller 'Yodha', has not yet announced any new projects.

—ETimes



BASKING IN THE LOVE

Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu, who is receiving a lot of positive response for her recently released streaming show 'Citadel: Honey Bunny', has reacted to all the love coming her way.

From showcasing insane combat skills and action to being compared to Sridevi in her acting prowess and her visual comedic stylings, Samantha Ruth Prabhu is the talk of the town.

Right from her hardcore action sequences to her beautiful moments of family and vulnerability, Samantha's performance seems to be one for the ages.

Talking about the love she's been receiving with just a few hours of the series dropping, Samantha said, "I am actually still processing all the love that's been pouring in. What an overwhelming response it's been! As artists, we always hope that our hard work is appreciated and with Citadel I feel like every bruise, every injury, even the concussion was so worth it!"

'Citadel: Honey Bunny' has been, without a doubt, one of this year's most anticipated series for its legacy, Raj & DK, Varun Dhawan and for Samantha. Audiences last saw her as a LTTE operative in the OTT outing 'Family Man 2' and her Telugu film 'Kushi'. Her fans and audiences have been eagerly waiting for their favourite star to set the screen ablaze with her incredible performance.

And as per reviews and audience reactions, she's done just that - owned her place as an artist, performed with immense vigour, versatility and commitment and above all made the audiences wait worthwhile.

—IANS

Path to healing

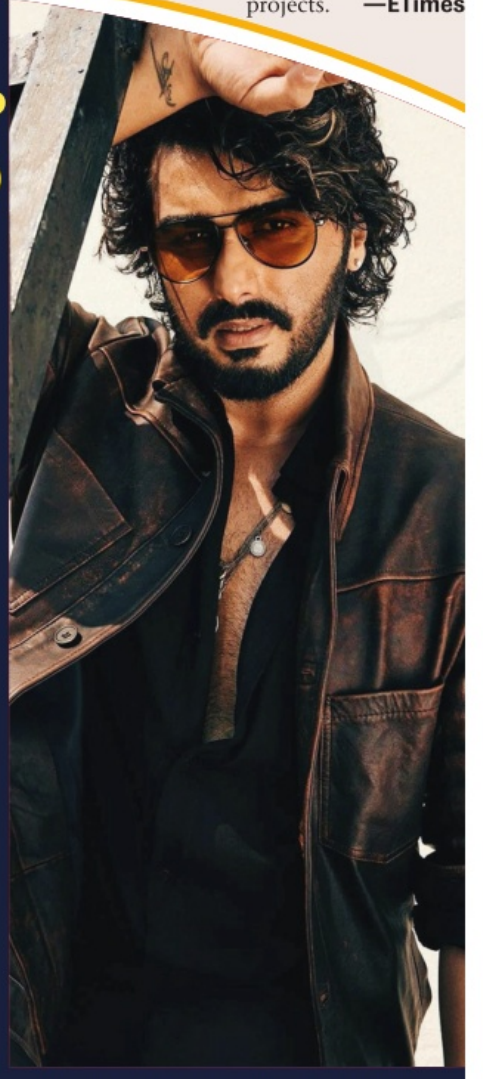
Arjun Kapoor opens up on dealing with mild depression and Hashimoto's disease

Arjun Kapoor recently opened up about battling self doubt, depression, and an autoimmune disease. Work wise, he is receiving appreciation for his acting in 'Singham Again', which is directed by Rohit Shetty. This is recognition following a string of less successful films, like 'Kuttey', 'The Lady Killer', and 'Ek Villain Returns', which did affect his mental health.

In an interview with 'The Hollywood Reporter India', the actor discussed experiences with mild depression and the steps he's taking to heal.

Reflecting on his journey, Kapoor shared: "You will have moments of self-doubt in any profession and you fight through it. When films don't pan out, those moments become days, then months and then years. You start doubting yourself, the negative always sounds louder." He continued "being a fat kid creates a lot of mental trauma for years and you don't realise that. Your equation with food and taking care of yourself."

In an attempt to regain control over his mental health, Kapoor started going to therapy, which he initiated about a year ago. "I have been somebody who has taken responsibility, I don't go and talk to people about it. I tried to deal with it the best way I could. The depression and therapy part started happening last year. This last one year was more personal than professional. I just knew something wasn't working. I had even stopped enjoying watching films. My life was films and suddenly I started watching other people's work and thought to myself, "Will I be able to or will I get a chance?" he said.



He spoke of the problem he has been facing because of Hashimoto's disease, an autoimmune disorder of the thyroid. "I haven't always opened up about it, but I also have Hashimoto's disease (an autoimmune disease that damages the thyroid gland), which is an extension of thyroid. It's almost like I can take a flight and gain weight because the body goes in distress..."

—ETimes